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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
HIROYUKI KIMURA ET AL. ) : Examiner: A. Azad  
Application No.: 09/891,389 ) : Group Art Unit: 2654  
Filed: June 27, 2001 ) :  
For: VOICE SYNTHESIZING APPARATUS, )  
VOICE SYNTHESIZING SYSTEM, VOICE ) :  
SYNTHESIZING METHOD AND STORAGE )  
MEDIUM : November 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office

Action dated October 29, 2004.

In the Office Action, it was alleged that the inventions of Group I (Claims 1-29 and 112-117), drawn to "a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for detecting overlap," classified in class 704, subclass 260; Group II (Claims 30-49), drawn to "a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for generating synthetic voice of a plurality of text data and outputting them at a time," classified in class 704, subclass 260; Group III (Claims 50-58, 62-70 and 74-82), drawn

to a “voice synthesizing apparatus/method for voice-synthesizing a plurality of text data with different kinds of voices,” classified in class 704, subclass 260; Group IV (Claims 59-61, 71-73 and 83-87), drawn to a “voice synthesizing apparatus/method for causing respective voice to be outputted from different uttering means,” classified in class 704, subclass 260; Group V (Claims 88-90, 96-98 and 104-106), drawn to “a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for upping the reproduction speed of the voice waveform,” classified in class 704, subclass 260; Group VI (Claims 91, 92, 99, 100, 107 and 108), drawn to “a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for producing a predetermined blank period after the termination of a reproduction of a preceding voice waveform,” classified in class 704, subclass 260; Group VII (Claims 93-95, 101-103 and 109-111), drawn to “a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for reproducing a specific voice synthesis waveform after the termination of the reproducing of preceding voice waveform,” classified in class 704, subclass 260; and Group VIII (Claims 118-131), drawn to “a voice synthesizing apparatus/method having a controlling means/step,” classified in class 704, subclass 260 are distinct because they are separately usable subcombinations.

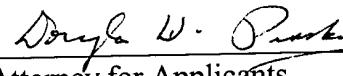
However, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified groups of claims are closely related and that a proper search of any of the claims of one group would likely include a search of the claims of the other groups. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously and that a duplicative search with possibly inconsistent results may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained. Therefore, in the interest of economy, both for the Office and Applicants, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, namely, Claims 1-29 and 112-117.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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